

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04693 171303Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 171045Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 4693

EXDIS

E.O. 116: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: GOI POLICY ON SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

REF: A. STATE 159161

R B. TEL AVIV 4185

C. TEL AVIV 4664

1. IT IS CLEAR FROM REF (C) THAT, DESPITE WHATEVER EFFORTS FORMIN ALLON MAY HAVE MADE WITH HIS MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES AND WITH PRESS (REF B), SUBJECT OF SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES CONTINUES TO OCCUPY ISRAELI DECISION MAKERS AND TO RECEIVE PROMINENT TREATMENT IN ISRAELI MEDIA. IT IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT, DESPITE AUTHORITATIVE REPORTS TO CONTRARY, PERES APPARENTLY WAS AND IS PREPARED TO STRIKE DEAL WITH LIKUD AND WITH RELIGIOUS GROUP TRYING TO ESTABLISH ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT IN SEBASTIA FOR MOVING THEM TO OTHER LOCATION ON BORDER OF SAMARIA AND JORDAN VALLEY. WE ASSUME PERES' ACTIONS ARE SANCTIONED BY PRIMIN RABIN.

2. ALL THESE ISRAELI STATEMENTS ABOUT PLANS FOR FURTHER SETTLEMENTS, AS WELL AS COMPROMISE WHICH AT LEAST ONE KEY MINISTER (PERES) IS WILLING TO STRIKE WITH ILLEGAL SETTLERS, DO NOT IN THEMSELVES MEAN THAT GOI IS ACTUALLY ABOUT TO EMBARK ON MAJOR NEW PROGRAMS. BUT, IN ABSENCE OF MORE CONCRETE INFORMATION ON ANY

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DECISIONS BY GOVERNMENT OR JEWISH AGENCY ON ALLOCATION

OF RESOURCES FOR SETTLEMENTS, THESE STATEMENTS PROVIDE THE ONLY CURRENTLY AVAILABLE INDEX OF GOI THINKING. WHILE WE CONTINUE TO DRAW DISTINCTION BETWEEN WHAT IS SAID AND WHAT GOI DOES, THEIR EXPRESSED INTENTIONS REMAIN DISTURBING. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT FROM ARAB VIEWPOINT, THESE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ARE IN THEM SELVES HARMFUL.

3. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, I HAVE ALREADY RAISED THIS GENERAL SUBJECT RECENTLY WITH ALLON (REF B). I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHETHER SUBJECT WAS TAKEN UP WITH ISRAELIS DURING ALLON VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND, IF SO, RESULTS.

4. I ASSUME DEPARTMENT AGREES WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO TRY TO INFLUENCE GOI TO HALT NEW SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY AND ALSO TO MUTE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT IN PUBLIC. DURING MY AUGUST 16 MEETING WITH ALLON, OPPORTUNITY OPENED FOR DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT, BUT I DID NOT BELIEVE I COULD USEFULLY PURSUE IT. SINCE QUESTION OF SETTLEMENTS IS A VERY LIVE ONE, I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S GUIDANCE.

5. DEPT REPEAT AS DESIRED.
KEATING

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NNN

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